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FROM: AmConGen, Lagos, Nigeria — DESP. NO. 444

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE: June 30, 1952

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - June 16-28, 1952

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POLITICAL

Nigerian political scene very quiet, nothing more heard of Action Group ministers' demands in re constitutional changes.

July Session Eastern House of Assembly

Lt. Governor C.J. PLEASS presides over first general session House at Enugu. Convened July 11.

Western House to Consider New Local Government

Action Group leader AWOLOWO plans submit new local gov't bill to July session Western House. Law will establish Councils all local levels, give more local and divisional autonomy, minimize authority District Officers and Residents and establish ratio of not more than one traditional member (chief) to three elected council members.

Action Groupers Awolowo and Thomas Reported Suing Zik Press for Libel

Daily Service reports Awolowo and Chief Bode Thomas suing Ziks Press for £25,000 in libel claim, also asking injunction. Alleged libel by Ziks Press in West African Pilot of June 10, 11 and 14. Suing Editor Mbonu OJIKE separately on alleged malicious publication in Pilot of June 12 (£25,000). Articles allegedly imply plaintiffs endeavored persuade Government unfairly intervene in Ikenne riot trial.

ECONOMIC

Another Foreign Firm Ups Salaries

Foreign firms in Nigeria intend grant wage increases before Government brings own scale out later in year. G.B. Ollivant and Co. announced wage and salary increases averaging about 25 to 30 per cent. Private salary scales will give Government good precedent

RWRoss/LDJunior/esh
REPORTER

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Report on Nigerian Uranium Says Uranium Oxide Content 120 Per Ton

Public Relations Department release says Nigerian uranium deposits have 120 grams uranium oxide per ton and niobium oxide content 2,600 grams. Calculates three-fourths extraction at plan handling 3,000 tons daily would yield 100 tons uranium and 2,000 tons niobium yearly. Local press carries London story stating UK companies will probably be asked exploit deposits.

EDUCATION

Probable Scholarship Scheme for North

Northern Regional Minister of Social Services says North able and intends to provide adequate scholarship funds for all qualified candidates. Stresses major stumbling block of small number qualified students. May attempt arrange preparatory courses of one and two years with foreign universities at the end of which time students would enter into regular college curriculum.

Robert W. Ross

Robert W. Ross
Vice Consul